

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

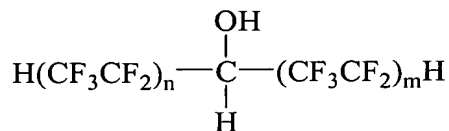
Applicants thank Examiner Keys for the helpful and courteous discussion of April 22, 2005. During the discussion, Applicants' U.S. representative pointed out that the claimed process may form a single fluoroalkanol in high selectivity, for example, 95% or greater.

Amended independent Claim 1 requires that the fluoroalkanol of Formula 1 contains one compound in an amount of 95% or greater.

One of the advantages of the presently claimed process is the ability to produce a fluoroalkanol compound in high selectivity. The claimed process is described in the present specification as follows:

The method of the present invention is a method capable of controlling the number of addition of the perfluoroolefin formula (3) in the telomerization reaction which is a chain reaction. Therefore, it is an excellent method, whereby a desired fluoroalkanol (formula 1) can be selectively produced. (Page 7, lines 16-21).

Therefore, the presently claimed continuous process wherein a radical initiator and a perfluoroolefin are continuously added to an alkanol, is able to provide the desired product (i.e., a fluoroalkanol) in high selectivity. Applicants submit that this is not possible with the prior art processes cited by the Office in rejecting the previously presented claims as obvious (e.g., Nooy – U.S. 3,022,356 and Joyce – U.S. 2,559,628). For example, Nooy discloses a method that is intended to produce a fluoroalkanol that has *bis* substitution of fluoroalkyl groups on a single carbon atom. The desired product of Nooy is shown below for convenience.



wherein n and m are integers of from 1 to 5.

Thus Nooy carries out a reaction in which two fluoroolefins are separately bonded to a carbon central atom. The desired product of Nooy is different from the fluoroalkanol of the claimed invention. The central carbon on the alkanol of the claimed invention is substituted at only one position with perfluoroolefin.

Applicants submit that a process which provides a fluoroalkanol having only one perfluoroalkyl substituted branch in an amount of 95% or greater cannot be obvious in view of a process that provides a *bis*-substituted fluoroalkanol.

Applicants note that the difference in the product formed in the claimed invention and in the Nooy process may be due to the high pressure that is used in Nooy. The Examples of Nooy are disclosed to be carried under high pressure (e.g., 630 psi (4.3 MPa)). Such high pressures are not necessary in the claimed invention and, in fact, are limited to from 0.2 to 1.2 MPa in dependent Claim 20.

Applicants submit that Nooy does not describe or suggest a process that forms a fluoroalkanol of formula (1) of present Claim 1 in an amount of 95% or greater. Because Nooy discloses a process intended for preparing a fluoroalkanol of substantially different formula, Applicants submit that the presently claimed invention cannot be rendered obvious by Nooy.

The Office appears to be of the belief that the batch process of Joyce can render obvious a continuous process such as that claimed in amended Claim 1. Applicants point out that the presently claimed continuous process can provide a fluoroalkanol containing a single fluoroalkanol in an amount of 95% or greater whereas the Joyce process produces a mixture of fluoroalkanols. The prior art disclosure is contradictory on its face because the Joyce reaction products provide a mixture of fluoroalkanols and cannot therefore render the presently claimed invention obvious.

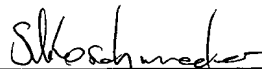
The Joyce examples support Applicants' observation that the Joyce process produces a mixture of different fluoroalkanols. Example 1 of Joyce provides at least three substantially different fluoroalkanol products including 6.9 parts of a steam-volatile liquid insoluble in water and heavier than water, 2.5 parts of a steam-volatile solid containing an average of about five tetrafluoroethylene units per methanol unit, and 17.4 parts of nonsteam-volatile solid. Applicants point out that n of formula 1 of Claim 1 may be from 1 to 4. The products of Joyce may have compounds where n is up to 12. Example 2 provides a reaction mixture containing 18 parts of water-insoluble liquid and 0.5 parts of nonsteam-volatile waxy pellets. The volatile liquid provides a series of liquids by fractionation. Example 3 provides a reaction mixture containing 20 parts of a steam-volatile mixed liquid and 18 parts of a solid residue. The steam-volatile portion can be further separated into solid and liquid fractions. Similar mixtures of fluoroalkanol reaction products are obtained for Examples 4-6 of Joyce.

Applicants submit that because Joyce discloses a batch process that produces a mixture that contains a number of fluoroalkanol products, the claimed invention which produces a fluoroalkanol containing a single fluoroalkanol compound in an amount of 95% or greater cannot be obvious.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and the allowance of all now-pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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